

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP  
29 MECHANIC STREET  
WIND GAP, PA 18091  
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President, Scott Parsons, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen: Joe Weaver, Dave Hess, Kerry Gassler, and George Hinton. Also in attendance were Mayor James M. Shoemaker and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone. Absent were Councilmen: Tony Curcio and John Maher

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one appeared before Council at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. EMS – Kerry Gassler reported that the Ambulance Corps responded to 56 calls in the month of July for a total of 377 for the year. The Wind Gap Ambulance Corps was having trouble responding to all the calls, but they recently have increased the number of their volunteers. The 2002 ambulance is out of service because every time it hits 35 m.p.h. the engine shuts off. It is currently in Walnutport for service and currently has approximately 100,000.

2. Fire Co. – Dave Hess reported that during the insurance audit, notice was provided to the Fire Company regarding the deep fryer in the kitchen at the firehouse. The problem has been corrected by the fire company and pictures will be forwarded to the Borough office. The Fire Company responded to 9 calls, 4 EMS assists, 3 accidents and one fire and one accident in Monroe County in the month of August. The fire fighters recently completed a Hazardous Materials Operations Course over the past several weekends and weeknights. There will be a fire prevention open house on October 11, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Fire Company is trying to institute a program for the Knox boxes. There has been some concern expressed regarding the liability of the boxes. Louise contacted similar size neighboring municipalities to obtain sample procedures and ordinances for the Knox boxes. The Fire Company wanted Borough Council to be aware of how upset they are regarding losing the \$25,000 contribution from Waste Management. The Fire Company President requested that Borough Council write a letter to Waste Management. Louise stated that the Borough was not informed in writing that the \$25,000 to the Fire Company would no longer be made. Kerry suggested getting the lawyer involved with reviewing the contract and a possible breach of contract by Waste Management. George stated that Waste Management contacted the Fire Company regarding information about the fire truck, original purchase value, and the financials on that truck with a current balance on the truck of \$88,000. George was called over to Waste Management and was told that they are not giving any more money and as far as they are concerned they overpaid the fire company. Both the Borough and the Fire Company understood the agreement to be that as long as they had a truck loan Waste Management would match the funds. They did not take into consideration of any of the interest paid on the loan. George informed Waste Management that of all three communities it was Wind Gap that wrote the letters to DEP in support of the landfill expansion. Council agreed that Attorney Karasek should review the agreement between the Borough and Waste Management.

Dave reported that he spoke to Brian Pysner regarding the floor at the firehouse. Brian will have a contractor look at the floor for stability and structure issues. George explained that the floor joists are on dirt and they are rotted. The last time the floor was repaired, plywood was put down, particle board and tile was installed on the wood, but since then the wood has rotted more. It always gets moisture because it is sitting on the ground. Brian will report back after the contractor looks at the floor.

3. Zoning – Tony Curcio was absent. Scott reported that the final decision is not in from the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor so Council will wait until that is received. Council action on the decision will be tabled until next month.

4. Planning - Scott Parsons reported that the Planning Commission did not meet in July and will not meet in August since no plans have been submitted.

5. Municipal Authority – John Maher was absent. Scott reported that he would be attending the Municipal Authority tomorrow, Wednesday, September 22, 2010, representing the Borough. Scott reported that John Maher, George Hinton and himself met with Authority representatives: Russ Dieter and Jon Faust about the paving on Lehigh Street, paving on East West Street and the paving on Second Street. The Authority will decide what they will do at their meeting tomorrow.

6. Streets – George Hinton reported on the project on Lehigh Avenue. There is a problem on the top end of Lehigh with water either because the water mains are not too deep or because of the disturbance of the ground and natural springs. Material had to be dug out to try to stabilize the base before the road is put back in. All the curb and sidewalk is complete, the milling is done at the lower end of the street by East West Street.

George reported that he saw a truck down at East First Street today hopefully put in the handicap ramps and sidewalks. Scott stated that he spoke to Pete Iselo either Wednesday or Thursday and Pete informed him that they were going to start this week. Pete was hoping to have his workers install the ramps and sidewalks. The Bortzs would like to get their Certificate of Occupancy for their new house, but they cannot get a CO until the street is complete to Borough standards.

The contractor who did the sewer work for the Sewer Authority was working on First Street today and it appears that he is trying to get the road ready to be patched. Hopefully that street will be done by the end of this week also.

The Street workers are cleaning out the catch basins and along the streets where the stones were washed out by the recent rains.

Dave Hess stated that he reported that a traffic light was out heading north on Broadway at the intersection of Broadway and Male Road. It is the left turning green arrow to turn onto Male Road. He informed the street workers about the light being out and was informed that those lights are LED and the Borough bulbs don't fit them. The Street Leader stated that they need to be shown how to change them and where to purchase the bulbs. The LEDs are guaranteed for five years.

7. Police – Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Police responded to 132 calls in the month of August, 5 motor vehicle accidents, issued 2 traffic citations and issued 4 parking tickets. Mayor Shoemaker and Chief Armitage attended a seminar "Managing a Professional Police Department". Scott stated that he has heard nothing but good things about the new part-time police officers. Kerry asked if the Mayor has completed a review of the Chief. Mayor Shoemaker replied that he has not, but will have it for next month. Kerry stated that the reviews were supposed to be done every 90 days.

8. Park – Joe Weaver reported that the Park Board met last Tuesday. They discussed the amount of vehicles parking in the park for Summer Sounds Concert, athletic events, and picnics. There are a limited number of handicap parking spaces for the elderly and/or handicap to attend the

concerts at the park. The problem with the cars inside the park stems from opening the gate on Third Street to allow the band and their members to enter the park to unload their equipment and the gate remaining open. Concertgoers assume that they are able to park inside also. Scott stated putting barricades up to discourage people from pulling into the park. The Park Board received a letter from Melissa Peters informing the board that they would like to collect funds and build a memorial to the victims of September 11. The Park Board voted to approve the memorial upon the condition that the board is allowed to approve the design so that it is consistent with the other memorials that already exist in the park. It may be a small plaque with a tree similar to the one for the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing. They are getting quotes for tree removal because there is about a half a dozen trees that are dead. Last summer, Mayor Mitch Mogilski had informed the board that there was money available under the Open Space Act and the park board was inquiring about the status. George explained that the concept for the open space funding was to get a walking trail from the Borough Park to the Wind Gap Middle School. The Borough was anticipating Mr. Muschlitz building his development and the property at MSG as important links to complete that trail. Gordon Heller was the person responsible for the Open Space funding at the County level and he was aware of the plans for the trail. Now, unfortunately, Mr. Heller has been replaced at that position and due to finances at County level, the grant funds need to be applied for, approved and then spent. The idea to have a shovel ready project was to upgrade the basketball courts because of the success of the summer basketball program. The application requires that the Borough has a Park Master Plan, which appears to have never been completed. The Borough did pay for a large amount of engineer, but the plan was never finished. Louise added that a Wetlands Delineation Plan, a survey and two concept drawings for the Park were completed, but not a Master Plan. Louise contacted Rettew, who initially was contracted to do the work, but the specific engineer, Paul Pendzick, no longer works for them, Rettew cannot locate any hard copy files or any electronic files. Louise left a message for Paul at the engineering firm where he is now employed.

9. 911 – Tony Curcio was absent.

10. Building Finance – Scott Parsons reported that the committee will be receiving a letter regarding the appraisals of the Borough properties.

11. Tipping Fees - Tony Curcio was absent. The contract will be reviewed by Council and a copy provided to Ron Karasek.

12. Property Maintenance Code – Scott Parsons reported that the committee of Scott Parsons, Tony Curcio, and George Hinton will meet as soon as possible.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Shoemaker reported that he contacted the Slate Belt Council of Governments regarding the sidewalk grants. They will assist with the grant writing. The next Slate Belt Council of Government meeting will be held on September 22, 2010 at Ron Angle's house. The Blood Drive that was held August 21, 2010, Miller Keystone reported that nineteen donors participated which was considered a success. There will be a walking tour of Roseto on October 9, 2010, with a rain date of October 16, 2010. The Mayor of Roseto sent a sign up sheets if anyone is interested in sponsoring a walker. If anyone is interested, he asked that they see him after the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Animal Control Officer. Louise explained that the Borough Office has received several complaints recently regarding cats in dogs in the Borough. She provided Council with written complaints specifically identifying a dog upon Lehigh, cat issue on Lehigh and a cat issue on upper Alpha. She contacted Pen Argyl Borough and they employ an Animal Control Officer, Phil Bell, who is also employed by Bangor Borough and Wilson Borough. A copy of their ordinance was provided to Council for review. Mr. Bell is asking to be considered for the position of Animal Control Officer, which gives him the ability to cite violators of the code. He comes highly recommended by the Pen Argyl Borough Manager. He has requested compensation of \$125.00 per month. Council to review the ordinance and discuss this topic at their next meeting.

2. Trick-or-Treat. Council set the Borough trick-or-treat for Sunday, October 31, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Gas Credit Cards. Louise has to contact Mr. Karasek to update the resolution for use of gas credit cards.

2. Bus shelters. Scott Parsons reported that the Borough signed a purchase order for the shelters, but a deposit check was not sent because of the issues with the advertising on the shelters. The supplier placed the order without the deposit in hand and now the shelters have been delivered to him for shipment to the Borough. Scott suggested that the Borough send the check.

**On motion** by Joe Weaver to adjourn the meeting of September 21, 2010. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of September 21, 2010 adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator